

2008 BIG ROCHE A CRI LAKE SNAPSHOT



Another aquatic plant survey was conducted in the summer of 2008. In this survey, the native water celery (*Vallisneria americana*) dominated the aquatic plant community, with the native coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) subdominant.

Aquatic plants were found to a depth of 15 feet in 2008. Of the 23 species found in 2008, five were emergents, 2 were rooted floating-leaf plants, 3 were free-floating plants, and 13 were submergent species. 2 of the submergent species were the invasives Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed. EWM comprised about 11% of the aquatic plant community, while CLP stayed at about 1%.

Several lake citizens were trained to conduct water sampling and aquatic invasive species monitoring.

Average summer water clarity in 2008 was 8.8 feet (very good). The 2008 summer was someone cooler than the prior summers as the drought seemed to ease up.

Average summer total phosphorus levels were done from 2004 through 2006 to 23.7 micrograms/liter (good).

Chlorophyll-a levels were 78% lower in 2008 than they had been in 2008, with an average summer level of 5.6 microgram/liter (good).

Aquatic plant covered 73.5% of Big Roche a Cri Lake in 2008.

The 2008 aquatic plant community was of average quality for the state and the region, with good species diversity. Aquatic plants tolerant of higher-than-average disturbance levels tended to comprise much of the aquatic plant community in 2008.